

REMARKS

Claims 1-14 are currently pending in the present application. Claims 1-2 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Black et al. in view of Anderson et al. Claims 3-14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Black, and further in view of Anderson and Global Engineering ("Fibre Channel Arbitrated Loop" from IDS). Claims 1-3 and 6-8 have been amended. Reconsideration and reexamination of the application in view of the amendments and following remarks are respectfully requested.

Claims 1-2 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Black in view of Anderson. Claim 1 has been amended. With the amendments to claim 1, it is respectfully submitted that this rejection has been overcome.

Amended claim 1 recites "[a] centralized routing table *directly coupled to each port and the crossbar switch through separate signaling paths . . .*" (emphasis added). Support for this limitation can be found in FIG. 4 of the present application and corresponding text, which shows router 149 (the centralized routing table) directly coupled to each port 141-148 and switch logic 150 (the crossbar switch) through separate signaling paths 151-158 and 181.

The Office Action contends that Black discloses this limitation by equating the centralized crossbar switch 100 shown in FIG. 4 of Black or the distributed crossbar switch shown in FIG. 5 of Black with the route determination apparatus/routing table of the present application. However, Applicants respectfully submit that this contention reflects a fundamental misunderstanding of Black. As FIG. 4 of Black clearly shows, Black discloses both a routing table 127 and a separate crossbar switch 100. FIG. 5 of Black shows a distributed crossbar (X-BAR) and separate port circuits 124, 126 and 128, each having a distributed routing table (see col. 14 lines 46-48: "every port circuit 124, 126 and 138 has its own copy of the ... routing table"). In either embodiment, the crossbar switch and routing table are distinct entities that each perform a separate function, and thus the crossbar switch of Black cannot be equated to a routing table. Thus, the

single routing table of Black is more appropriately associated with the single routing table of the present invention.

However, the centralized routing table 127 shown in FIG. 4 of Black is not *directly* coupled to the ports 102, 104, 106, etc. and crossbar switch 100 through *separate* signaling paths. Rather, the routing table 127 is coupled to the ports *through a protocol bus* 121 (see col. 14 lines 29-31 of Black), and is only *indirectly coupled to the crossbar switch* 100 through the ports. This is not an insubstantial difference, because the protocol bus requires extra effort from the ports in the form of messages placed on the protocol bus to check the contents of the routing table. (See col. 26 lines 56-59 of Black.)

Anderson fails to make up for the deficiencies of Black because Anderson contains no disclosure at all related to “[a] centralized routing table *directly coupled to each port and the crossbar switch through separate signaling paths . . .*” In fact, Anderson is completely silent as to any *route determination apparatus* whatsoever.

Because neither Black nor Anderson, alone or in combination, discloses, teaches, or suggests all of the limitations of amended claim 1, it is respectfully submitted that the rejection of this claim under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Black in view of Anderson has been overcome. In addition, because claim 2 depends from claim 1, the rejection of this claim has been overcome for the same reasons as provided above with respect to claim 1.

Claims 3-14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Black, and further in view of Anderson, and Global Engineering. Claims 3 and 6-8 have been amended. With the amendments to claims 3 and 6-8, it is respectfully submitted that the rejection has been overcome.

Amended claim 3 recites “a centralized routing table *directly coupled* to the first and second ports for selecting a route between ports.” Amended claim 6 recites “a centralized routing table *directly coupled* to the port logic and the connectivity apparatus.” Amended claim 7 recites “the centralized routing table is *directly coupled* to the plurality of ports and the crossbar switch.”

Amended claim 8 recites “the centralized routing table is *directly coupled* to the plurality of ports and the connectivity apparatus.” Support for this limitation can be found in FIG. 4 of the present application and corresponding text, which shows router 149 (the centralized routing table) directly coupled to each port 141-148 and switch logic 150 (the crossbar switch) through separate signaling paths 151-158 and 181.

As discussed above with respect to claims 1 and 2, neither Black nor Anderson discloses, teaches or suggests these limitations. Further, Global Engineering fails to make up for the deficiencies of Black and Anderson, because Global Engineering also fails to disclose, teach, or suggest these limitations.

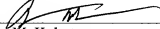
Because neither Black nor Anderson nor Global Engineering, alone or in combination, discloses, teaches, or suggests all of the limitations of claims 3 and 6-8, it is respectfully submitted that the rejection of those claims under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Black, and further in view of Anderson, and Global Engineering has been traversed. In addition, because claims 4, 5, 9-14 depend from claims 3 and 6-8, the rejection of these claims has been overcome for the same reasons as provided above with respect to claims 3 and 6-8.

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the outstanding rejection of the claims and to pass this application to issue. If it is determined that a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number given below.

In the event the U.S. Patent and Trademark office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, applicant petitions for any required relief including extensions of time and authorizes the Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to Deposit Account No. 03-1952 referencing Docket No. 49144-2011600. However, the Commissioner is not authorized to charge the cost of the issue fee to the Deposit Account.

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Respectfully submitted,

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